

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method in a data processing system for modifying a word processing document, the method comprising:

selecting a first portion of text to be protected from deletion from the word processing document, wherein the word processing document is not a spreadsheet, and wherein the first portion of text to be protected from deletion forms protected content;

responsive to receiving a user input to delete selected content within the document, determining whether a second portion of the selected content is text protected from deletion contains any of the protected content; and

responsive to the second portion of the selected content being containing the protected content, preventing deletion of the portion of the selected protected content.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the user input is a first user input and further comprising:

responsive to a second user input confirming deletion of the portion of the selected content, allowing deletion of the portion of the selected content to proceed.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the preventing step includes:

generating an indication that the portion of the selected content is protected content.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the indication includes at least one of highlighting the protected content and causing the protected content to blink.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the portion of the selected protected content is at least one of text and a graphic image.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the determining step includes using a grep filter to identify the portion of the selected protected content.

7. (Currently Amended) A data processing system for modifying a word processing document, the data processing system comprising:

means for selecting a first portion of text to be protected from deletion from the word processing document, wherein the word processing document is not a spreadsheet, and wherein the first portion of text to be protected from deletion forms protected content;

determining means, responsive to receiving a user input to delete selected content within the document, for determining whether a second portion of the selected content is protected from deletion; and

preventing means, responsive to the second portion of the selected content being containing the protected content, for preventing deletion of the portion of the selected protected content.

8. (Original) The data processing system of claim 7, wherein the user input is a first user input and further comprising:

allowing means, responsive to a second user input confirming deletion of the portion of the selected content, for allowing deletion of the portion of the selected content to proceed.

9. (Original) The data processing system of claim 7, wherein the preventing means includes:

generating means for generating an indication that the portion of the selected content is protected content.

10. (Original) The data processing system of claim 9, wherein the indication includes at least one of highlighting the protected content and causing the protected content to blink.

11. (Currently Amended) The data processing system of claim 7, wherein the portion of the selected protected content is at least one of text and a graphic image.

12. (Currently Amended) The data processing system of claim 7, wherein the determining means includes using a grep filter to identify the portion of the selected protected content.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for modifying a document, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions, selecting a first portion of text to be protected from deletion from the word processing document, wherein the word processing document is not a spreadsheet, and wherein the first portion of text to be protected from deletion forms protected content;

~~first second~~ instructions, responsive to receiving a user input to delete selected content within the document, for determining whether a ~~second~~ portion of the selected content is ~~protected from deletion contains any of the protected content~~; and

~~second third~~ instructions, responsive to the ~~second~~ portion of the selected content being containing the protected content, for preventing deletion of the ~~portion of the selected protected~~ content.

14. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the user input is a first user input and further comprising:

~~third fourth~~ instructions, responsive to a second user input confirming deletion of the portion of the selected content, for allowing deletion of the portion of the selected content to proceed.

15. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the ~~second third~~ instructions includes:

sub-instructions for generating an indication that the portion of the selected content is protected content.

16. (Original) The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the indication includes at least one of highlighting the protected content and causing the protected content to blink.

17. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the ~~portion of the selected protected~~ content is at least one of text and a graphic image.

18. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the ~~first second~~ instructions includes using a grep filter to identify the ~~portion of the selected protected~~ content.

19. (Currently Amended) A data processing system comprising:

a bus system;

a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory includes a set of instructions; and

a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein the processing unit executes a set of instructions to ~~select a first portion of text to be protected from deletion from the word processing document, wherein the word processing document is not a spreadsheet, and wherein the first portion of text to be protected from deletion forms protected content; determine whether a second portion of selected content is protected from deletion contains any of the protected content~~ in response to receiving a user

input to delete selected content within a document; and prevent deletion of the portion of the selected protected content in response to the portion of the selected content being containing the protected content.

20. (Original) A data processing system of claim 19, wherein the processing unit further executes to allow deletion of the portion of the selected content to proceed in response to a second user input confirming deletion of the portion of the selected content.